THE MINISTER OF STATE I IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Infrastructural Development of Mega cities, cities with population more than 40 lakhs and under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) towns/ cities with population upto 3 lakhs are provided with Central Assistance based on project reports received from State Governments.

(c) and (d) Central Assistance has been provided for 3 towns namely Dhanbad, Dunka and Deoghar under the IDSMT Scheme, out of the above mentioned towns and amount of Rs. 42.86 lakhs, Rs. 18.5 lakhs and Rs. 40.00 lakhs respectively has been released since the inception of the Scheme (1979-80) till June, 30, 1994.

As far as Mega City Scheme is concerned, there is no Mega City in the State of Bihar.

Financial Irregularities Commited by HUDCO

675. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received series of representations/ complaints about financial irregularities committed by Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO);

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof;

(c) whether Government pro pose to handover the probe of HUDCO's irregularities to CBI or any other independent authority;

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what other measures Government now propose to take to set right the functioning of the HUDCO ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE TN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) to (d) Comptroller and Auditor General of India received a notice from the Lawyers' Forum for Civil Liberties, on the 8th June, 1994, regarding statutory audit report of Housing and Urban Development Corporation for 1992-93. However, before receipt I of the notice from the forum, the I Comptroller and Auditor General of India had finalised his comments and review of the accounts of the Company for 1992-93. In its report the C&AG has adversely commented on the inaccurancies in the statutory auditor's reports. C&AG did not consider it necessary to send a reply to the Forum.

In addition, soma annonymous complaints/references are received and the allegations made are exa-\ mined and appropriate action is taken by HUDCO wherever required. In one such case, CBT has registered a case against one of the officers for possessing disproportionate assets.

(e) In order to strengthen the vigilance machinery of HUDCO, Government of India recently appointed an officer on deputation as Chief Vigilance Officer reporting directly to Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO.

Urban infrastructural Development by HUDCO

676. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that HUD-CO has formulated plans to form a new company for financing urban infrastructure development in the country ;

(b) if so, whether 240 million dollars are likely to be floated by HUDCO;

(c) whether the National Institute of Urban Affairs is likely to be the model agency ;

(d) if so, whether HUDCO has also submitted a proposal to Government to take up financing for house construction in South Africa ;

(e) if so, whether these plans of HUDCO will be introduced in all the States ; and

(f) what is the amount that has been earmarked and the total investment made during 1994-95 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) During the year 1994-95 HUDCO has fixed a loan sanction target of Rs. 1390 crore for housing and infrastructure projects, out of which it has sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 211 crores, duriag the first quarter of the financial year i.e. 1-4-94 to 30-6-94. The releases made during this period are Rs. 101 crores.

Construction of Houses for Weaker Sections of Society

677. SHRT SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

a) whether the programme under operation for construction of houses for the weaker sections of society haae been very poor ;

(b) if so, whether a total of 2741 schemes were approved under section 21 of Urban Land Ceiling Act;

(c) if so, which States have com pleted the implementation of the schemes for construction houses;

(d) what is the number of States which have not at all started construction of houses for poor section;

(e) what is the position of Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard ;

(f) what are the reasons for slow progress in this regard; and

(g) whether any instructions were issued to State Government to implement the schemes for construction of houses for the poor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b) Under Section 21, exemptions can be grante to a person to develop the excess vacant land for construction of dwelling units for the weaker sections of the society. As per information received from the State Governments/UTs. 2,741 schemes were ap-roved by them for construction of houses for the weaker sections of the society.

(c) and (d) The details are given in the statement enclosed. (*See* below).

(e) The Government of Madhya Pradesh approved 12 schemes under Section 21, but no scheme has been implemented so far.

(f) The reasons for slow progress are reported to be (a) litigation (b) short supply of construction materials; (c) delay in obtaining permission of the State Governments for seeking extension of time for completing the schemes; etc.

(g) The Government of India had issued guidelines to State Governments from time to time, for implementing Section 21 for construction of houses for the weaker sections of the society.